Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01377 301408 Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 CU-04 RSR-01 /054 W

R 301307 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7962 INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 1377

E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: PINT SF

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS STAN SMITH APPALLED BY APARTHEID.

- 1. COMMENTS BY VISITING US TENNIS STAR STAN SMITH AT PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AND OTHER PUBLIC APPEARANCES NONCOMMITAL, BUT PRESS REPORTS STRONG ANTI- APARTHEID STATEMENTS MADE IN SUB-SEQUENT INTERVIEW. "SOWETO LOOKED TO ME LIKE A HUGE CONCENTRATION CAMP.... THE WORST GHETTO I HAVE EVER SEEN. I AM SO APPALLED BY APARTHEID AT CLOSE QUARTERS I WILL HAVE TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO COMING HERE AGAIN." HE REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO DESCRIBE PERSONAL DISGUST AT VARIOUS ASPECTS SA RACE RELATIONS, AS WELL AS MISGIVINGS ABOUT ALLOWING SOUTH AFRICA TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT.
- 2. COMMENT: SMITH'S COMMENTS WIDELY REPORTED, BUT COME AT SAME TIME AS REPORTS THAT SA TENNIS STAR CLIFF DRYSDALE BELIEVES IT UNREALISTIC AND COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE FOR SA EVEN TO ATTEMPT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL SPORT WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS IN AREA OF MIXED SPORT, AND HAVE NOT RPT NOT CREATED ANY SIGNIFICANT STIR. CLIPPINGS FOLLOW.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980203 Subject: PRESS REPORTS STAN SMITH APPALLED BY APARTHEID.

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